

Health and Human Services

The Committee supports the County Executive's recommendations for the human services programs. We also have reviewed and support the FY 2019 funding recommendations from the Human Services Council.¹

Specifically recommended is support for the following:

1. **Contract Rate Increases:** An increase of \$3.32 million will support contract rate increases for a variety of programs and providers. The increase is partially offset by \$500,000 in revenue, for a net cost to the County of \$2.82 million.
2. **Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP):** FY 2019 is the first year of the next 2-year funding cycle. The County Executive has proposed an increase of \$557,085 (5%) in County funding for the CCFP, which, along with Federal CDBG funding, brings the total CCFP funding to about \$13 million.
3. **Opportunity Neighborhoods:** An increase of \$440,000 will support the continued expansion of the Opportunity Neighborhood (ON) initiative to the Bailey's/Culmore area of Human Services Region 2 and to Herndon in Region 3. ON (in NCS) coordinates the efforts of multiple County agencies and community-based programs to promote positive outcomes for children and youth. ON is currently operating in Mt. Vernon and Lee Districts, and the expansion into the Reston area was begun in FY 2017.
4. **Early Childhood Care Slots:** An increase of \$540,000 will support 36 new early childhood care slots to serve at-risk pre-schoolers in comprehensive early childhood programs in community-based settings.
5. **Expand Nurse Family Partnership Program:** An increase of \$167.292 (plus \$80,708 in Fringe Benefits funding) will fund the expansion of the Nurse Family Partnership Program into the Herndon and Reston areas of the county. This evidence-based nurse home-visiting program works with low-income mothers who are pregnant with their first babies and are at risk for poor birth outcomes in order to achieve healthier pregnancies and births, stronger child development, and a path toward economic self-sufficiency. The program currently serves 100 families in Bailey's Crossroads and Mt. Vernon; the new funding will expand services to approximately 50 families in Herndon and Reston.
6. **Nursing Services for Medically Fragile Students:** An increase of \$130,000 will be used to address the increase in one-on-one nursing services for medically fragile students enrolled in FCPS. These services are mandated under federal law for eligible students. Over the last several years there has been an increase in demand for one-on-one nursing services, and the demand is expected to continue to grow as more medically fragile students are entering FCPS at the age of pre-school and remaining in the system until they complete their school years.

The Committee also supports funding to solve cross-cutting problems that involve a multiple agencies:

¹ https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/human-services-council/sites/human-services-council/files/assets/documents/pdf/hsc%20letter%20to%20bos_%20final.pdf

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic: A total increase of \$1.47 million is required to address the growing opioid epidemic. The funding, based in the Health Department, the CSB, and the Police Department, will support the implementation of the multi-year plan developed by the Board's Opioid Task Force.

- Health Dept.: An increase of \$107,600 will support a position transferred to the Health Dept. during FY 2018 to increase epidemiological support, including data analysis, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Police Dept.: \$109,000 in operating expenses.
- CSB: An increase of \$1.2 million (including \$1 million in personnel services and \$122,300 in Operating expenses). This funding will be used to increase education and awareness and to expand the use of Medication Assisted Treatment, which involves the provision of medications, plus nursing services, community case management, and in-home supports.

Diversion First: A total increase of about \$2.46 million will support the third year of the Diversion First Initiative, which is also the first year of the 5-year fiscally constrained plan.

- CSB: \$1.1 million, which will be used to strengthen operations at the Merrifield Crisis Response Center, establish a 3rd Mobile Crisis Unit, provide resources to the Court systems, provide needed housing and other resources, and strengthen behavioral health services at needed intercepts.
- Police Dept: \$184,407 and one position, which will allow the Police Dept. to support diversion services at the Merrifield Crisis Response Center on a 24 hour per day, 7 days per week basis.
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court: \$136,134, which will allow the JDRDC to provide increased supervision of the pretrial cases requiring mental health services and further align practices with the General District Court.
- Office of the Sheriff: \$276,336 and 3 positions to allow the Office of the Sheriff to provide supervision for the officer assigned at the Merrifield Crisis Response Center and to provide secure transportation for psychiatric hospitalizations.

Gang Prevention: The proposed FY 2019 Budget includes an increase of about \$612,000 for education, prevention, enforcement, and coordination.

- Police Dept.: \$96,270 will support one position that will be added at the FY 2018 3rd Quarter Review.
- Neighborhood & Community Services: \$160,000 to expand parent liaison services and targeted elementary school outreach.
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court: \$331,500 for Intervention, Prevention, and Education program expansion (\$185,000) and for intensive services for reunifying families (\$146,500), both in partnership with Northern Virginia Family Service.
- Office of Public Affairs: \$25,000.

For Future Consideration:

1. EXPAND THE HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE PLAN

Pursuant to our FY2018 budget recommendation, the Board directed the development of the Health and Human Services Resource Plan as part of the Budget Guidelines for FY 2019. The Plan is designed to changing needs and trends. The Committee recommends that the County Executive to expand the Plan:

1. by partnering with FCPS, non-profits, faith communities and business members to ascertain the resources for essential services provided outside the county's human service agencies budgets, and

2. by incorporating longer term infrastructural needs for the human service system in all capital improvement budgets.

2. INCREASE AFFORDABLE/ACCESSIBLE HOMES

Fairfax County residents are impoverished by the current deficit of 31,000 rental homes, and further threatened by our need for an additional 62,000 homes over the next 15 years. The committee recommends that the Board accept the Countywide Strategic Plan for Affordable Homes and its Phase 1 strategies when delivered in early May. We also urge the Board to pursue the larger funding strategies anticipated from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee in their Phase 2 recommendations.